

drinking water, clog our hatcheries and unravel the Lake Champlain ecosystem.

We did not ask for the mussels, but we got them. I was scuba diving in Lake Champlain this summer and was shocked to find mussels taking over the lake bottom, historic ship wrecks included. Three years ago we had no zebra mussels—this summer I found mussels by the handful.

The zebra mussel problem in Lake Champlain deserves immediate and swift action. This pest poses a serious risk to the water resources throughout Vermont, economic opportunities along the lake, and the health and safety of Vermonters. In the not-so-distant future, some Vermonters may turn on their taps to find nothing flowing, as these mussels have blocked water intakes and delivery systems up and down the shoreline.

The biggest hurdle our States face is the fact that there is no proven control technology. It is like the State of Vermont looking for a solution to cancer—by itself. The Hollings-Levin-Leahy amendment provides a modest contribution of Federal assistance that will help address the zebra mussel problem.

My understanding is that this amendment includes \$100,000 specifically for Vermont to tackle the problem. Our State Legislature has appropriated millions of dollars to address the problem, and this token of Federal support will make a big difference.

Mr. LEVIN. The Senator from Vermont has been very supportive of our efforts to clean up the Great Lakes and is correct about this amendment. We know first hand the challenge Vermont faces. The Great Lakes research and control efforts have benefited Lake Champlain, and we expect the Lake Champlain efforts funded in this amendment to benefit the Great Lakes.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I agree with both the Senator from Vermont and the Senator from Michigan. They have worked hard on this amendment to address a problem of true national concern and scope.

Mr. LEAHY. I want to thank the Senator from South Carolina for his leadership on this bill, and the Senator from Michigan for his long standing commitment to the Great Lakes and to freshwater issues like the Zebra mussel.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I believe now we are ready for third reading.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third time and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate? If not, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

So the bill (H.R. 2076), as amended, was passed.

Mr. GRAMM. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. GRAMM. I move that the Senate insist on its amendments and request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, on behalf of the city of Smyrna, GA, and its outstanding Mayor Max Bacon, I rise to commend the Senate—and especially Senator GRAMM—for helping Smyrna and the entire Atlanta area in its efforts to deal with the transportation of illegal immigrants once they have been detained.

By increasing by \$12.3 million the portion of the Immigration and Naturalization Service budget for fiscal year 1996 which deals with the transportation of detained illegals, the Commerce, Justice, and State appropriations bill will go a long way toward more effectively enforcing our immigration laws.

In the city of Smyrna—as in many across the country—illegal immigrants are placing an enormous burden on legal residents, who are facing rising taxes due to the increased costs of providing health services and educational programs, in addition to the loss of jobs.

In the Atlanta area, we have been concerned with the lack of vehicles available for the transportation of detained illegals. The city of Smyrna is optimistic that an influx of new buses and vehicles will help the INS be even more effective in removing illegal immigrants and transporting them to the proper authorities. Again, I commend my Senate colleagues for their wisdom, and extend my gratitude on behalf of Smyrna's Mayor Bacon.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### THE RIGHT TRACK

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to once again express my concerns about the so-called "train wreck" that might occur if there is a lapse in appropriations authority beyond the Continuing Resolution we will be approving today or tomorrow.

While some have proclaimed it would be "no big deal" if government shut down, there are many, including me, who think this kind of reasoning is wrong.

By approving a continuing resolution (CR), we are acting responsibly and avoiding unnecessary and costly furloughs. The CR gives us time to pass all of our appropriations bills and helps provide for real deficit reduction.

But, if we continue to play politics with government employees and the

American people on this issue, we are only hurting ourselves and the image of Congress. Those who encourage a shutdown proclaim themselves to be deficit and spending hawks.

Mr. President, in 1990, we had our last furlough. It happened over the Columbus Day Weekend. As a result, several members of Congress asked the General Accounting Office [GAO] to examine the taxpayer costs of that shutdown. The GAO found that of the 22 executive branch agencies surveyed, seven reported significant shutdown costs totaling about \$3.4 million.

Moreover, the GAO examined a hypothetical three-day shutdown during a normal workweek. The costs of this scenario would range from \$244.6 million to \$607.3 million.

It is foolhardy to think a shutdown is good for America. The 1994 elections, which gave Republicans majorities in both Houses of Congress, sent a clear message to Washington, DC. The message was: "We are sick and tired of Congress doing business as usual. Stop the bickering and get the job done."

I applaud the Republican leadership in the House and here in the Senate. We are changing the way government does business. We are, however, doing "business as usual" when we play politics and appear cavalier in attitude towards our Federal employees—both civilian and military.

Mr. President, I am the sponsor of S. 1246, a bill that would insure that Federal employees who work or are furloughed during a shutdown will automatically be paid as soon as the appropriations bill funding their salary is enacted.

I have also vowed not to accept a paycheck if a shutdown occurs. Like the men and women of the armed services and the civil service, all of us are employees of the American people. If the government shuts down in November after the CR expires, or because we fail to agree on a measure to raise the nation's debt ceiling, I believe that the Congress should be denied compensation as well.

In conclusion, Mr. President, let me say that I believe the American people are looking to us Republicans to lead this country and to make their Federal government more responsive and less burdensome. We have weathered some tough storms in the Senate, but we are making progress as evidenced by passage of the unprecedented reform of the country's broken down welfare system. The American public, including the people in my State, are proud of our achievements. Republicans are moving in the right direction, and we are changing the way government governs. We are not posturing, we are working.

I say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, the American people are fed up with blustering and posturing. The American people are sick and tired of hearing about a "train wreck." They have heard these same arguments year after year. I say to my colleagues, get our appropriations bill passed before the continuing resolution expires.